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Har Homa bulldozing faces delay

By DAVID MAKI JYSKY

There are indications that bulldozers will not begin digging at Jerusalem's Har Homa this week, though surveys will begin work in the area and the paving of an access road will begin on Tuesday, cabinet-level sources said.

The decision to delay earthwork on Har Homa, which Palestinians have said could trigger a hostile reaction, is apparently not due to political factors but to technical difficulties. The source said the bulldozers are likely to begin work next week.

Despite Palestinian threats of potential violence, not one at Friday's cabinet meeting called for the project to be delayed. Ministers felt that if the project is stopped, Israel would face pressure from Palestinians on a whole range of issues.

During the course of the meeting, sources said, General Security Service head Ami Ayalon said Palestinian violence is "definitely possible once construction begins, but said the GSS has no warnings about anything specific."

Defense Minister Yitzhak

Mordechai said he does not believe there will be violence. Nonetheless, the cabinet approved plans for military reinforcements in the event of emergency.

At the Friday meeting, both Ayalon and OC Intelligence Maj. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is straddling the fence on the issue of violence. He has not called for violence, but he has not called on the Palestinians to refrain from it, either.

According to the intelligence officials, Arafat feels this stance gives him the most maneuvering room. But they said they are convinced that if Arafat does not want violence, it will not occur.

Ayalon praised Arafat for preventing a "few" terror attacks recently, but did not give details. At the same time, Ayalon voiced concern about increased political contacts between Arafat and members of the Palestinian opposition.

At the start of the cabinet meeting, participants observed a moment of silence for the seven schoolgirls who were killed at Naharayim.



President Ezer Weizman is wheeled into Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem on Friday, after breaking his wrist and hip while getting out of a helicopter. (AP)

Hussein on condolence visit today

By DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

Jordan's King Hussein is to make a nine-hour visit here today, which will include condolence calls on the families of the seven schoolgirls who were shot dead by a Jordanian soldier in Naharayim on Thursday.

Hussein will also hold talks in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Ezer Weizman. The last time Hussein was in Jerusalem was for prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's funeral in November 1995.

Netanyahu and Hussein are expected to meet alone for one hour this afternoon at the Prime Minister's Office, Netanyahu's aides said.

There was hope in Jerusalem last night that the visit, while humanitarian in nature, would also enable both men to address their differences and improve bilateral ties. Early last week Hussein sent Netanyahu a harsh letter charging that the premier no longer seemed committed to peace.

"Israel and Jordan have had long-term mutual interests, which continue despite the ups and downs in the peace process," said Netanyahu foreign policy adviser Dore Gold. "It is necessary to figure out how to protect this relationship from the inevitable difficulties as the issues of the negotiations become more difficult."

Jordanian officials declined to comment last night.

The monarch, who will be accompanied by two of his grown children, Prince Faisal and Princess Aisha, and the head of the royal court, Awn Kahasawneh, will arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport around noon. Hussein will be greeted by Netanyahu, who will accompany the king throughout his stay.

According to the schedule issued last night, Hussein is to visit the bereaved families in Beit Shemesh, where he is expected to spend close to three hours.

Afterwards, he is to proceed to Hadassah-University Hospital in

Jerusalem's Ein Kerem section to visit a girl pupil and teacher wounded in the attack, and to see Weizman, who underwent surgery on Friday after a fall. After visiting Weizman, Hussein and Netanyahu are to go to the premier's office and then the King David Hotel, where they will hold a joint press conference.

It is expected that Hussein will condemn Israel's plans to move ahead on the construction of

Fuerst school hopes for royal visit, Page 2

Jewish housing in Jerusalem's Har Homa.

Afterwards, the two leaders are to have what officials characterize as a working dinner and be joined by several members of the cabinet.

The visit is being called "Operation Warm Feeling." Some 3,000 policemen are to be deployed to protect Hussein. Traffic is expected to be snarled in Jerusalem for much of the day, and traffic on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway will be forbidden around the times of the king's arrival and departure.

Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yigal Pressler, until recently the prime minister's adviser on terrorism, was named Friday by Education Minister Ze'ev Elkin to head the ministry's inquiry into the Naharayim massacre. Others on the committee are former ministry director-general Dr. Dan Sharon and Aharon Bletchinsky, director of the ministry's Jerusalem district.

The Pressler Commission is to examine various aspects of the ill-fated excursion that are connected with the ministry, from the approval of its original route up to the attack on the schoolgirls.

In Jordan, meanwhile, King Hussein on Friday launched an inquiry into the attacker's motives, appointing Mohammed Kailani, a veteran security chief

Continued on Page 4

Arafat: Peace process near breakdown

Gaza for um uneventful

By JON IMMANUEL

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat chaired a forum of foreign diplomats in Gaza yesterday aimed at "saving the peace process" in the face of actions by Israel which, he said, will destroy it.

In the growing atmosphere of tension underlined by the slaughter of seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls Thursday by a Jordanian soldier, Arafat said he is opposed to terrorism. But, he added, "as we have already said, while peace and terrorism can't go hand in hand, nor can peace and settlements." He could not, he said, predict the actions of the Palestinian people.

Arafat's aides were more blunt. "I think the peace process is finished with this government," F.A. cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel-Rahman said. "The Israeli government is ignoring its own security services' warnings of violence if they send bulldozers to Har Homa."

Netanyahu's statements, his ministers' statements, destroy peace and if there is no peace there will be war."

Abdel-Rahman said he hopes today's condolence visit by King

Hussein will cause a change of heart in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "at the eleventh hour," as Hussein's intervention helped seal an agreement on Hebron two months ago. Diplomats from the US, Russia, the European Union, the UN, Japan, Norway, Egypt and Jordan attended the meeting in Arafat's office. The French consul in Jerusalem represented the EU, the US was represented by Consul General Edward



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat adjusts his glasses while addressing foreign diplomats in his Gaza office yesterday. (Reuters)

Abington, and Russia by its ambassador to the PA, Alexei Tchistiakov. Japan sent its Tel Aviv envoy, Egypt sent Deputy Foreign Minister Badr Hamam and Jordan sent Nayef Qadi, its ambassador to the Arab League. The UN was represented by its new Middle East coordinator and Norway sent its roving envoy to the Middle East.

Arafat said the government had reneged on agreements with the previous Labor government concerning settlements and Jerusalem, with the decision to build on Har Homa the most blatant and most serious example.

He noted that the Labor government had frozen plans to build on Har Homa - while it built in other parts of Jerusalem and Ma'aleh Adumim - because it understood how serious construction there would be.

Netanyahu's plan, Arafat said,

Weizman satisfactory after hip surgery

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR and JUDY SIEGEL

President Ezer Weizman was in satisfactory condition at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem last night, after undergoing an operation on Friday for a fractured left hip and arm. He is expected to be released on Wednesday.

Jordan's King Hussein is due to visit the president at the hospital this afternoon.

Weizman tripped Friday as he descended from the helicopter which took him back to his Caesarea home from Poriya Hospital near Tiberias, where he visited some of the schoolgirls wounded in the Naharayim massacre.

"I believe my coat caught in something," Weizman told reporters. "I tried to break the fall and landed on my left side."

"It must be contagious," Weizman joked, noting that US President Bill Clinton had torn a tendon in his right knee at approximately the same time and that Sara Netanyahu, the prime minister's wife, had twisted her ankle.

The president was taken immediately to the nearby Hillel Yoffe Hospital in Hadera, accompanied by his wife, Reuma, but shortly afterwards he was

transferred by helicopter to Hadassah in order to be closer to his office in Jerusalem.

Orthopedists at Hadassah said they hope Weizman can be discharged later this week. On Friday, he underwent a two-hour operation under spinal anesthesia to set his left thigh bone.

Dr. Iri Leibergal, a senior orthopedist who performed the surgery along with department head Prof. David Segal, affixed the fractured bone together with metal pins. They did not need to change the hip joint. The limb was bandaged, and because of the pins, the president did not need a cast. He was already able to step down on his left leg yesterday.

Surgery was not needed on the fractured bone in his left hand, which was put in a cast, Leibergal said.

After a few days' recovery in the hospital, Weizman will need a few weeks' rest, and although his mobility will be limited during this time, he will be able to get around with a walker or cane.

Last night, he was visited by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza.

February CPI jumps 1.2%

By DAVID HARRIS

The consumer price index shot up by 1.2 percent last month, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced Friday. It is the first time the index has risen by more than 1% since May 1996.

The key factors were rises in housing prices and a 12.3% increase in the cost of fruits and vegetables.

While the general rise in prices is considerably higher than expected, Central Bureau of Statistics spokesman David Neumann warned against undue alarm. The January CPI was up

only 0.4%, making a combined 1.6% increase for the first two months. This Neumann said, must be compared to the 1.8% increase during the same period last year.

Housing prices rose by an overall 1.4%, largely because of the 1.8% increase in the dollar exchange rate. The cost of purchasing a property rose some 1.4%, with rentals going up by 1.8%.

The fruit and vegetables index rose 12.3%, which the CBS put down to seasonal factors. Fresh vegetables became more expensive by 26.4% and fresh fruits by 5.7%. Eggplant rose in price by

92.9%, zucchini by 66.9% and cucumbers by 57.1%. Frozen products increased by far smaller amounts.

Food prices, excluding fruit and vegetables, rose by 0.8%; ice cream was up 3.6%; poultry, 2.9%; and confectioneries, 1.6%. Household furniture and equipment increased by 1.2%. Health care became more expensive by 0.5%.

On the other hand, clothing and footwear prices fell 3.5% in February, mainly due to end-of-season sales. Clothing was 3.7% cheaper, with footwear down 2.6%.

LIBI
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Esterina Giron recently died at the age of 87, leaving 5 million shekels to the State of Israel. Most of the sum went to the LIBI Fund, for the building of a Center for the Study of Hebrew for immigrant soldiers, located at the Education Corps' base in the Galilee. The Center is named for her and her late husband, Israel Giron.

Esterina Giron and her husband, who came to live in Israel in 1970, left no children.

The above photo was taken at the dedication ceremony of the center. From left to right: Lieut.-Col. Devorah Pinot, LIBI Fund; the Administrator-General, Attn. Shmuel Tzur; Col. Meir Blayer, Commander of the LIBI Fund; Chief Education and Youth Corps Officer, Brig.-Gen. Avraham Asaf; Shoshana Kaban of the Administrator-General's Office.

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Continued on Page 4

مكتبة الاصل

Our beloved
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has left us.

The funeral will take place at Kiryat Shaul Cemetery today,
Sunday, March 16, 1997 at 3 p.m.

The family is sitting shiva at home, Rav Ashi 8, Neveh Avivim.

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Netta, Omer, Carmel, Elnore, Guy

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Nurit and Eli Nitzan and family
Sister: Dalia Grossman and family

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mourns the loss of our

Prof. KALMAN YA'ACOV MANN

former director-general of Hadassah Medical Organization
pioneer of health care administration and public health in Israel
visionary and pragmatist,

and extends heartfelt condolences to the family.

The funeral will leave from the Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus for
Sanhedria Cemetery today, Sunday, March 16, at 2 p.m.
From 12 until 2 it is possible to pay last respects at Hadassah on Mt. Scopus.

Director-General and employees

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HADASSAH INTERNATIONAL
HADASSAH FAMILY IN ISRAEL**

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former director-general of Hadassah Medical Organization
who devoted his life to public service, builder of Hadassah Ein Kerem
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educator and teacher
Israel Prize laureate

and extend heartfelt condolences to the family.

The National President
The Past Presidents
The National Board
and the Members of Hadassah

Yad Sarah

deeply mourns the passing of

Prof. KALMAN JACOB MANN

head of its presidium
wise counselor and tireless leader,
whose wisdom, warmth, constant initiative, and youthful spirit
were a beacon of light to us at every step.

We have lost a true friend, a great man.

His memory will live in our hearts forever.

Grieving with his family are
The friends of Yad Sarah The presidium and management The branch directors
in Israel and abroad and volunteers

We deeply mourn the passing of our beloved

Prof. KALMAN JACOB MANN

My husband, our father, brother and grandfather.

Friends may pay their respects today, Sunday, March 16, 1997 at the Hadassah-University
Hospital on Mount Scopus between 12:00-2:00 p.m.

At 2:00 p.m. the funeral will leave the hospital and proceed to the Sanhedria Cemetery.

Bluma Mann
Ruth and Zvi Feine
Gideon and Ayala Mann
Jonathan and Tova Mann
Naomi and Eitan Arnon
The grandchildren

Leah Grinblat and family
Rachel Kahanoff and family
and Families:
Mann
Weisberg
Chill

The family will sit shiva at his residence, Rehov Eliezer Halevi 18, Kiryat Moshe, Jerusalem

Fuerst school waits for king

By ELI WOHLGELER

If King Hussein visits the AMIT Fuerst school in Beit Shemesh today, he will be respectfully welcomed by the administration; but will he be rejected by the parents, by the students?

"I hope not, I hope not," said Motti Farber, principal of the school's junior high school grades, but added: "I don't want to speak for people who have suffered. I don't have the right to tell anybody not to be angry."

Farber said that while in his view, "I'm not sure it's not a little soon" for Hussein to make

the visit, "I understand and appreciate the gesture he's trying to make."

For Farber, any kind gesture is welcome.

Since Thursday, he has been living with the hell of a school and community in pain and confusion, and he's been trying to help soothe the suffering felt by everyone.

At the school on Friday classes were optional, but many students came anyway, to talk to their friends, their classmates, their teachers.

"There was no extreme response," Farber said. "The kids were quiet, very respectful,

somewhat introverted. This isn't the stage where it's going to come out... I don't know when it's going to come out."

He said some of the pupils got emotional, but no one needed medical care, and a backup staff of psychologists and social workers were there on standby. The eighth-grade girls class had a psychologist talking to them all morning.

"A few kids were crying, but it wasn't hysterical, it was very quiet, an inner thing, not thousands of kids crying. Just sort of each one helping the other, being there for when someone needed them - if a kid was cry-

ing, to take them aside and give them a drink."

The school started letting the pupils go home at 11 a.m., as they wanted.

Some hung around. "After we were in class, during the break they lit candles in the main entrance, and wrote things on the walls," said Farber, 40, who has been at the school for 13 years, the last seven as middle school principal.

Today, he said, "We're going to try and keep them in class according to the normal school rule, but we'll be flexible, of course. Right now we're just trying to be there for them."

Hizbullah gunmen fire at IDF tank, SLA positions

By DAVID RUDGE

Fighting continued in the security zone over the weekend as Hizbullah kept up the pressure of attacks on IDF and South Lebanese Army targets.

There were no casualties among IDF or SLA troops in the incidents, which occurred on Friday afternoon in the zone's eastern and western sectors.

In one of the long-range clashes, gunmen opened fire with anti-tank missiles on an IDF tank in the Talousa region, in the zone's eastern sector.

Hizbullah claimed in a statement issued in Beirut that one of its newly revealed tank sniper units had hit an IDF tank with a missile during the fighting. There was no damage to the vehicle, however, and the members of its crew were unhurt.

Simultaneously, Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars at SLA positions nearby, while launching a separate long-range mortar attack on another SLA outpost in the Rashaf region, in the zone's western sector.

Reports from the zone said no damage was caused in any of the attacks and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Meanwhile, late on Thursday night, the five-nation Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee concluded its deliberations into Israel's complaint over an abortive Hizbullah car bomb attack in the zone last Monday on the outskirts of Tel al-Kabah village - less than 500 meters from the border with Israel.

An IDF soldier was moderately wounded and two Lebanese civilians were lightly hurt when the perpetrator detonated the device prematurely and fled after being spotted.

The IDF Spokesman said in a statement that the monitoring group had accepted Israel's claim and determined that a car had exploded near an occupied house in the region of Huleh village, causing the casualties and damage to the property.

The committee, set up to supervise the understandings reached at the end of the Grapes of Wrath fighting last April, expressed regret over the incident's outcome. It called on the responsible parties to adhere to the understandings in full and ensure that no further attacks be launched in residential areas, and to refrain from endangering civilians or damaging property.

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Palestinians protest Har Homa plans

Masked Palestinians burn an American flag during a demonstration in Nablus yesterday against plans to construct Jewish housing at Har Homa. An alliance of eight Moslem groups, including Islamic Jihad and Hamas, called on Palestinians to escalate attacks against Israel to block the construction. The Jerusalem Committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference is to convene in Morocco on March 27 to discuss the Har Homa plans, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced yesterday. (AP)

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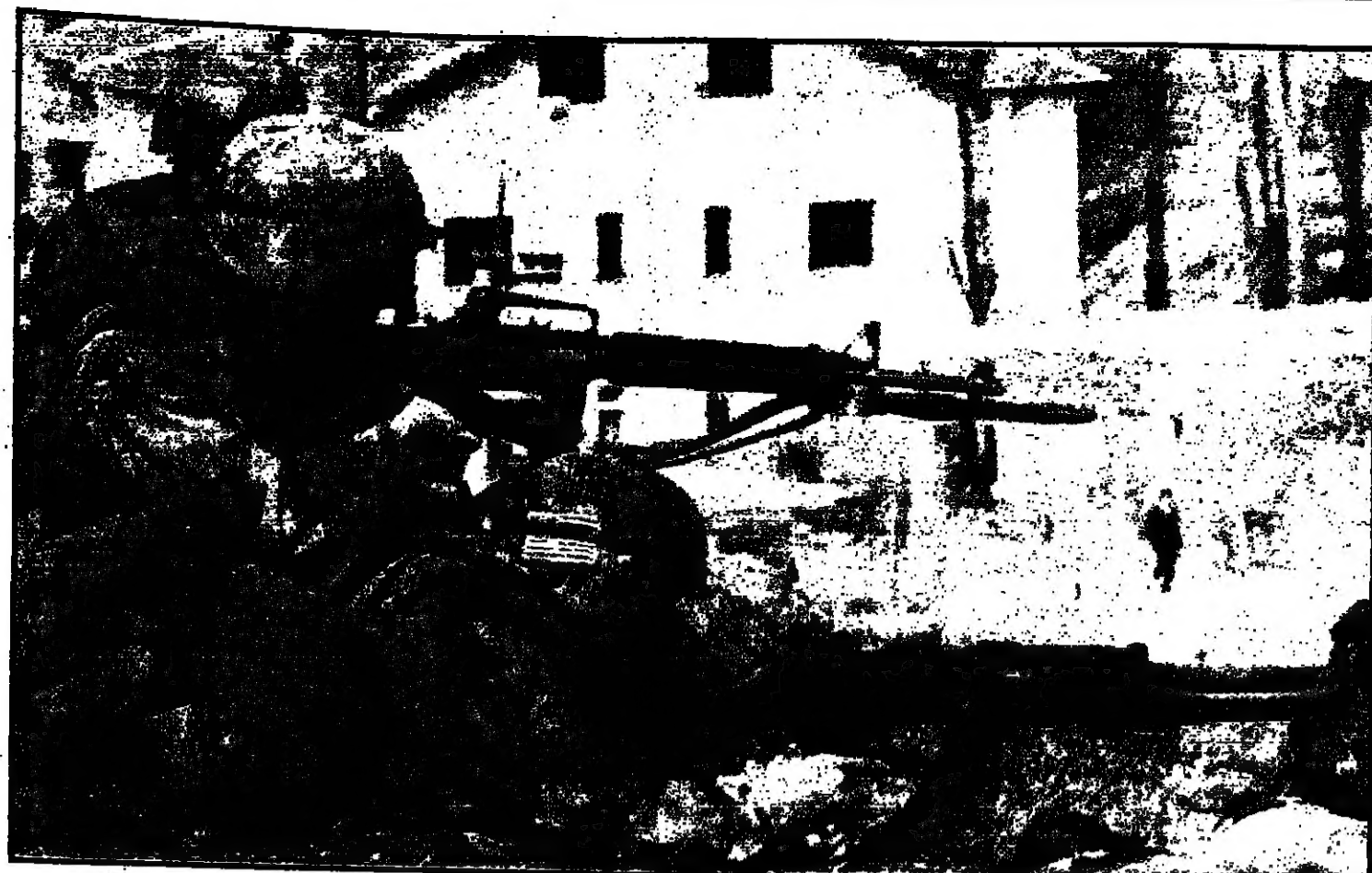
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US Marines guard the US embassy in Tirana, Albania, yesterday during the evacuation of Americans from the city. (AP)

Evacuation chaos in Albania

News agencies

TIRANA, Albania — Here Beqiri said she cried as she left Albania, and like other Americans lifted to safety by US helicopters this weekend was stunned at how quickly the Balkan country had disintegrated.

The 26-year-old Beqiri had been working for Albanian television. With gunmen roaming the streets in recent days, she was taken in for protection by her neighbors, who escorted her to the US embassy to await the Chinook helicopters.

"I was crying. I am afraid for the people I left there," Beqiri said. "The ammunition has to run out sooner or later."

Among those evacuated was a South African woman shot in the shoulder when she was near the US embassy, Navy Cmdr. Henry Golden said.

The US evacuation in Tirana came under fire from the ground, said Marine Col. Emerson Gardner, commander of the operation. A Cobra helicopter gunship returned fire, officers said.

An Italian AB-212 helicopter was hit by gunfire early Friday during an evacuation mission, but no one aboard was injured, the Defense Ministry said in Rome. Italian aviators had reported gunfire Thursday night during the height of Italy's evacuation of around 1,000 foreign nationals.

"There are a lot of people with weapons and a lot of indiscriminate firing," said Gardner.

Some 169 Marines were sent into the US embassy in Tirana and a compound where diplomats live. The Nassau, a helicopter carrier, was part of a Marine amphibious unit stationed in the Adriatic.

"It's a bit unnerving all this fir-

ing going on," said Gardner.

The chaos was even more intense in the port of Durres, where thousands of Albanians broke through police ranks yesterday in a desperate, failed attempt to escape the country on a Greek frigate evacuating Chinese and Iranian diplomats.

Police fired hundreds of warning shots into the air in an unsuccessful bid to hold the frenzied crowd back. The unarmed civilians threw rocks and stones at the police and finally evaded the security cordon by climbing over, around and through a three-meter high wall at the port. By the time the stampede arrived the ship was steaming away.

"We have two options, either we take guns and kill these bastard police, or we get a boat out of here," one young Albanian told reporters.

OSCE: Send foreign troops to Albania

VIENNA (Reuters) — Ambassadors of Europe's top security body agreed yesterday to give broad support to sending foreign troops to Albania to halt anarchy in the Balkan state.

The 54-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) backed a proposal by the OSCE's mediator in Albania Franz Vranitzky to ask foreign governments to send forces, but no individual state gave an explicit commitment to do so.

"If the international community does not accept this task today, it will have to handle it tomorrow, but the task will be bigger... and the bill will be more expensive," said ambassador Lars Vissing of Denmark, which holds the current chairmanship of the OSCE.

Vranitzky held talks aboard an Italian frigate in the Adriatic on Friday with leaders of the Albanian government and rebel forces from towns in the south. The former Austrian chancellor said he was told by the government that it could no longer control the spreading armed rebellion and wanted outside intervention to help restore order.

"There is no alternative (to foreign intervention) as far as I can see," Vranitzky said on Friday.

Vissing told reporters that ambassadors at yesterday's emergency session expressed broad agreement on three elements of Vranitzky's report — the need to restore order with a stabilization force; the need for international financial support; and the deployment of OSCE missions to help rebuild democratic institutions and prepare for early elections.

Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen told European

Union foreign ministers at a meeting in the Dutch town of Apeldoorn yesterday that he believed Albanian President Sali Berisha should step down to help end the current crisis.

The rebels accuse Berisha of corruption and of failing to put a stop to bogus pyramid schemes, in which many citizens poured their life savings. Their collapse ignited widespread unrest which has in the past two weeks deteriorated into chaos and anarchy.

Albanian ambassador to the OSCE Zef Mazi told reporters after the emergency session that the organization had an important role to play in ending the mayhem in Albania, but stressed it had no say in whether or not Berisha should resign.

He said he was encouraged by the amount of support shown by the OSCE for some form of foreign intervention in Albania. "There was a lot of political readiness, sympathy and solidarity expressed in the meeting this morning," Mazi said.

Vissing said he would hold meetings over the next few days with any potential contributors to Vranitzky's proposals and work closely with the EU and the Council of Europe to reach a speedy decision.

"We're working on this as fast as possible. It is a matter of extreme urgency," he said.

According to Vranitzky's report, Berisha, all political parties and rebel committees share the same goal — the restoration of order and democracy and the holding of fresh elections.

But one sticking point was likely to be Berisha's tenure of power. Rebel committees insist Berisha should go before there is any chance of a return to peace.

UN envoy arrives in rebel Zaire

GOMA, Zaire (Reuters) — United Nations envoy Mohammed Sahnoun arrived yesterday in the rebel-held eastern border town of Goma for talks with rebel leader Laurent Kabila aimed at ending the fighting in Zaire.

Sahnoun arrived in a motorcade at the lakeside palace used by Kabila. He made no comment to waiting reporters. Sahnoun, appointed by the UN Security Council and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), arrived in Goma from the Rwandan capital Kigali where he held talks with President Pasteur Bizimungu and Vice-President and military strongman Major-General Paul Kagame on the fighting in Zaire.

His brief involves brokering peace in Zaire, Africa's third largest country, and the Great Lakes region of Central Africa.

On Thursday, Sahnoun met Kabila in Uganda at talks chaired by Ugandan President and regional powerbroker Yoweri Museveni.

But Kabila again refused pleas from Sahnoun to accept a ceasefire to pave the way for talks with Zaire's government.

Diplomats in the Ugandan capital Kampala said Museveni, a regional power broker accused by Zaire of backing Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-

Zaire, facilitated the face-to-face meeting but did not take sides. Kabila, whose forces are advancing on Zaire's third-largest city of Kisangani, has accepted a UN peace plan as a basis for talks but rejected its call for a ceasefire.

The rebels say they want to overthrow Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko, who had surgery for prostate cancer last August and is now resting in France.

Kabila's rebels have made significant gains and a regional military source said yesterday they were advancing on the town of Pweto on Lake Tanganyika in the mineral-rich Shaba province.

Kisangani, its jungle setting immortalized in Joseph Conrad's bleak novel *Heart of Darkness*, is a strategic prize for the rebels.

The nerve center of army operations in the warzone, it is perched strategically at the head of a major navigable stretch of the mighty Zaire River that flows west from there to the capital Kinshasa — some 1,500 km downstream.

A lack of passable roads through the sprawling Central African nation's jungle and bush makes the Zaire River and its many tributaries the principal arteries for internal and external trade.

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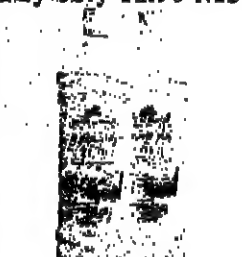
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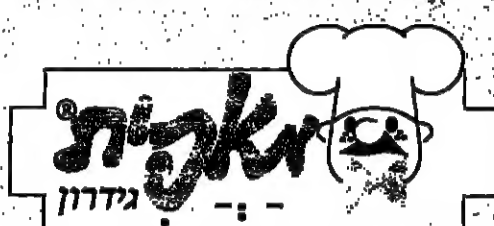
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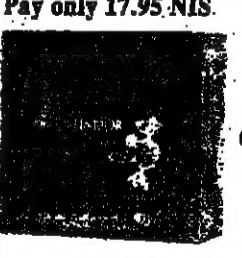
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WORLD

in brief

No trace of survivors in Iran crash

TEHRAN (AP) — Search teams found parts of an Iranian military cargo plane that crashed in northeastern Iran, but located no trace of the 86 passengers and crew, Iranian radio said yesterday. It said teams from the army and Red Crescent, the Islamic equivalent of the Red Cross, were continuing to search in the mountainous area despite snow storms and sub-zero temperatures.

The plane was carrying soldiers and their families when it crashed Thursday 75 kilometers west of Mashhad.

The US-made C-130 lost contact with the control tower at Mashhad one hour after taking off from Mashhad from Dezful in western Ahvaz province. The pilot had reported technical difficulties. Iranian aviation officials said Friday that all 86 passengers and crew were presumed dead.

Thou shalt steal from supermarkets

LONDON (AP) — A Church of England vicar created a stir yesterday by suggesting it was no sin to shoplift — as long as the victim is a big supermarket.

"Jesus said 'Love your neighbor.' He didn't say 'Love Marks and Spencers,'" the Rev. John Papworth said on a BBC radio show. Papworth drew a distinction between stealing from individuals or small merchants — which he says is wrong — and stealing from giant retailing corporations, whom he says have run little stores out of business and harm local communities.

"With these institutions, all you are confronted with are these boardroom barons sitting round the boardroom plotting how to take the maximum amount of money out of people's pockets for the minimum in return," Papworth said.

The Church of England distanced itself from Papworth.

New AIDS drugs available for children

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Two AIDS drugs were approved for use by children on Friday, the first specific drug for pediatric AIDS in the United States, federal health officials said. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said it had approved Agouron Pharmaceutical's nelfinavir, to be sold under the brand name Viracept. It was approved for both adults and children.

The FDA also gave Abbott Laboratories' ritonavir, sold under the brand name Norvir, approval for pediatric use. It has been available to adults for about a year.

Egypt police identify massacre suspects

CAIRO (Reuters) — Egyptian police suspect three fugitive Moslem militants active in the south massacred 13 people after rampaging through a southern hamlet this week, security sources said yesterday. The sources identified the men as Anwar Hamed, Abdel Razek Atta and Mahmoud el-Farshouti — wanted members of the militant Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group). The government newspaper *Al-Ahram* published photographs of Hamed and Farshouti.

On Thursday, three suspected militants gunned down residents of Ezbet Dawoud village. Eight were identified by police as Coptic Christians, one of the groups targeted by the Gama'a in its campaign to topple the government. Hours later they shot dead a woman and wounded seven others after spraying a Cairo-bound train with bullets when it stopped at Nag Hammadi, about 450 km south of the capital.

Russian jailed for trading in human flesh

MOSCOW (Reuters) — A Russian court sentenced a murderer who traded pieces of his victim's flesh as ordinary meat to eight years in prison yesterday.

The man, Anatoly Dolbyshev, from the town of Berezniki in the Ural region of Perm, was found guilty of stabbing to death a friend of his mother's in a fight. Dolbyshev, who had several previous convictions, then cut up his victim's body and sold pieces of the human flesh to unsuspecting local townsfolk in exchange for vodka.

Police were called when one buyer found a strip of human skin in the meat. The court found Dolbyshev guilty of murder, "swindling and appropriation of property through deceit."

Japan nuclear leak bigger than operator admitted

TOKYO (AP) — The amount of radiation released in an accident at a nuclear plant in northeastern Japan was 10 times higher than initially reported by authorities, the plant operator said yesterday.

A fire broke out Tuesday at a nuclear plant in Tokaimura, 110 kilometers northeast of Tokyo. An explosion followed and 37 workers

were exposed to radiation. The government operator, Donen, said yesterday workers miscalculated the amount of radiation found in the plant's ventilation system. Instead, the radioactive material released in the accident was 10 times more concentrated than the plant initially reported. Japanese newspapers

reported the amount could be as high as 20 times what Donen reported at first.

The cause of the fire and explosion was still under investigation. Yesterday, plant workers continued sealing broken windows and doors to stop further leaks.

The plant has refused to say just how much radiation was emitted but insists it was not dangerous.

Cabinet ministers yesterday went to the plant. The accident came just as Japan was trying to rebuild trust in its nuclear program after a December 1995 accident.

ARAFAT

Continued from Page 1

"will isolate Jerusalem from the West Bank and sever northeast Jerusalem from southeast Jerusalem. It aims 'to build hotels there in preparation for Bethlehem's year 2000 events, with the aim of replacing Bethlehem with the new settlement.'"

A poll taken of 500 Palestinians in the Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron areas by Dr. Nabil Kokali's Palestinian Center for Public Opinion last Tuesday, indicated that 72 percent believe negotiations should be suspended until Israel reverses its decision on Har Homa, while 48 percent think there should be a new intifada because of it. Almost 41 percent favor suicide attacks against Israelis.

There was almost total condemnation of the redeployment decision, which 95 percent think unsatisfactory. The margin of error was 3.5 percent, Kokali said.

On Thursday the Palestinian Legislative Council proposed suspending negotiations.

Arafat told the conference Israel's decision to redeploy from only 2 percent of area C "was a shock for us." He also reiterated to the foreign envoys other charges of delays on Gaza's port and airport.

HUSSEIN

Continued from Page 1

who headed the powerful intelligence bureau in the 1960s and early 1970s, to direct the investigation into the causes behind the shooting.

Kailani, 64, a trusted confidant of the king, has also held the post of interior minister. From 1993 until February 1996 he was the king's national security adviser.

Jordanian officials confirmed that the gunman is army driver Sgt. Ahmed Daqansa, 25, from a small village called Idr in Jordan's Irbid province, which overlooks northern Israel.

The monarch has viewed the shooting as a personal attack on him, coming from the army establishment which takes pride of place in Jordanian society as his main power base.

"I am sure you share with me... and all members of the honorable Arab army's armed forces the feelings of pain, shock, and shame over the vile crime... by the bullet of a treacherous coward, who has harmed the noble reputation of our army and its honor," the king told Kailani in the letter of appointment.

Political analysts say it is too early to say if the killing is a reflection of any disaffection within the loyalist army.

Clinton undergoes surgery

By TERENCE HUNT

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP) — President Bill Clinton will hobble on crutches for weeks after surgery to repair a damaged leg, but he doesn't want the injury to affect foreign policy too much.

Although a visit by Jordan's King Hussein next week will be postponed, plans continue to call for a trip to Finland next week for a summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was also going ahead with an African trip with daughter Chelsea.

On Friday, surgeons repaired a painful torn knee-tendon in Clinton's right leg after a middle-of-the-night accident at the Florida home of golfer Greg Norman. The president will use crutches for eight weeks or so and face arduous physical therapy.

"We were very happy with our repair," the chief surgeon said. "I feel great. They did a terrific job," Clinton said after two hours of surgery. "I just had an unlucky break."

"He has an excellent chance to regain full motion in his knee," said Dr. David Adkison, adding though that the tear was more complex than normal for such an injury. Doctors said it would be perhaps six months before the president would regain full use of his leg.

"He wants to know when he can swing a golf club," Adkison said. "We'll see." Clinton is expected to remain in the hospital until today.

The president interrupted a post-operative news conference that was broadcast live on television, calling by telephone to give his own report on the surgery.

Stressing that he had been injury-free most of his life, he said, "Don't worry about it. I'll just spend a little time here and go back to work." Doctors said



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visits President Clinton at Bethesda Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, yesterday. (AP)

Clinton would be on a non-narcotic painkiller for a time.

The tear in Clinton's tendon was unusual, physicians said.

"It tore in a way where there actually still was some of the tendon attached to the bone, which is uncommon," Adkison said.

The president's leg was put in a brace but not a cast. "The main thing we don't want to happen is a

fall," Adkison said. "He might reinjure this."

The accident occurred about 1:20 a.m. Friday at Norman's 80-acre oceanside estate at Hobe Sound on the east coast of Florida, where the president was staying before playing in a golf tournament.

The president was rushed back to Washington, where he was

operated on at Bethesda Naval Hospital in this Maryland suburb.

The surgery was done under a spinal anesthesia, leaving the president conscious.

Turning in for the night after spending several hours with Norman and his family, the president misjudged the steps leading to a walkway and stumbled, tearing the quadriceps tendon that

connects the upper thigh to the kneecap.

"He remembers his right knee buckling out. He heard a very loud pop," said Navy Capt. Connie Mariano, the president's personal physician.

It was so loud that Clinton "claims Greg Norman heard it," presidential aide Bruce Lindsey said.

Murder charge in Cosby slaying

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prosecutors filed a murder charge Friday against a young Russian immigrant in the shooting of comedian Bill Cosby's son and added a special allegation that could lead to the death penalty if he is convicted.

Mikhail Markhasev was charged Friday with murder, attempted robbery and use of a firearm during commission of a crime in the January 16 killing of Ennis Cosby, who was shot to death while changing a tire near a freeway.

The allegation that Cosby, a 27-year-old doctoral candidate, was

killed during an attempted robbery is a so-called "special circumstance" that, if upheld at trial, could allow prosecutors to seek the death penalty.

The filing came as details of the Soviet emigre's past began to emerge. He was described as a better-than-average student and hard worker at his job in a plant store, but he also had a juvenile criminal record that landed him in a probation camp for six months in 1995.

"He just seemed like a nice kid who lived down the block," said Jim Herzoff, owner of Mainly Seconds Pottery Plants and Things, where

Markhasev was hired last month as a cashier.

Arrested Wednesday at his North Hollywood apartment, Markhasev, was in the custody of sheriff's deputies at the criminal court building as he awaited arraignment.

Markhasev came to the United States as a refugee from the Soviet Union in 1989 and is not a US citizen, a federal official said.

Police Lt. Anthony Alba declined to release Markhasev's criminal history, but newspapers reported it included convictions for marijuana possession and assault.

UK chief rabbi fans Reform rift

LONDON (Reuters) — A leaked letter from Britain's chief rabbi attacking non-Orthodox Jews inflamed bitter divisions Friday in the country's Jewish community.

"The leaders of the Reform, Liberal and Masorti movements know that they have no enemy and opponent equal to the Chief Rabbi," Jonathan Sacks wrote to right-wing Orthodox Rabbi Chanoch Padwa in a letter published by *The Jewish Chronicle*.

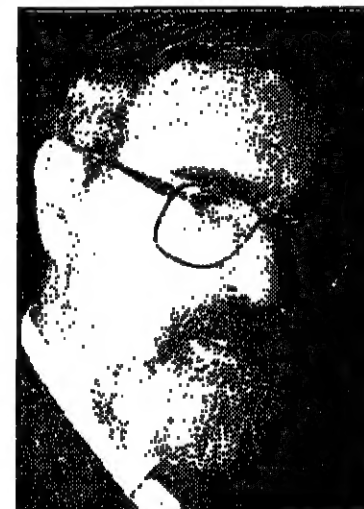
Liberal and non-observant Jews were angered when Sacks failed to attend the funeral last year of popular Reform Rabbi Hugo Gryn, a Holocaust survivor who promoted relations between Jews and people of other faiths. But when Sacks attended a secular memorial service last month for Gryn, Orthodox rabbis protested.

"There is a sacred responsibility which rests upon me, not merely not to give this false grouping recognition, but also not to be a cause of their receiving that recognition from the state, the government and the heads of churches," Sacks wrote in his letter to Padwa.

The *Jewish Chronicle* said the letter, marked "not for publication," was leaked to it last month. The newspaper said it published it because British Jews and the institution of the chief rabbi had become engulfed by a "conflict unprecedented in their history."

The newspaper acknowledged that liberal Jews dismayed at Sack's handling of the row over Gryn's funeral might be prompted to set up a leadership of their own.

The chief rabbi, who sparked



Jonathan Sacks (AP)

another outcry in 1995 when he denounced Conservative Jews as "intellectual thieves," appeared to be telling his right-wing critics that he was only publicly praising Hugo Gryn for political reasons, the newspaper added.

The crisis blew apart a facade of unity Sacks has struggled to present since he became chief rabbi in 1990. While pockets of orthodox Jewish revival have sprung up, religious observance among Britain's 300,000 Jews has declined and Sacks has fought to contain growing internal factions.

"I have sought to make us — all of us — a little prouder to be Jews," he wrote in an article next to the letter. "I have sought peace, and actively pursued it. That effort has been rewarded by disdain."

Australia anti-racism protest turns violent

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — An anti-racism protest in Australia turned ugly yesterday when demonstrators tried to break through a police barricade and storm a bookshop run by a right-wing group.

Police on horseback were called in to keep the 500 protesters at bay, after some tried to breach the barricade set up in front of the shop in suburban Melbourne, police said.

Protesters threw bottles, sticks and eggs at the shop run by National Action, accusing the group of being a neo-Nazi organization.

Police arrested four protesters, charging two men with assaulting police and a third with unlawful

assault. Police were well prepared for the protest, deploying over 80 officers, including about a dozen on horseback, in case of trouble.

The protest included Jewish, trade union and homosexual groups. They marched on the shop after rallying in a nearby park to object to the what they called racist, anti-immigration and homophobic messages promoted by National Action.

National Action's Michael Brander told reporters: "We don't want an Asian future. We certainly don't want a homosexual future. We don't want the government to continue to use left-wing scam to try and silence freedom of speech."

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Oscar-winning director Zinnemann dies

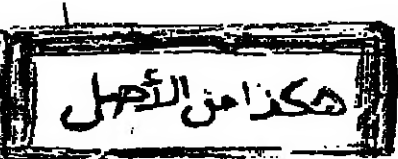
LONDON (AP) — Fred Zinnemann, the Oscar-winning film director who dramatized issues of conscience in *High Noon*, *A Man for All Seasons* and *Julia*, has died.

Zinnemann died Friday at his home. He was 89.

"It appears to be natural causes," said Pamela Godfrey, a colleague of Zinnemann's son, producer Tim Zinnemann. "He just stopped."

His films posed dilemmas of moral courage and physical bravery. *High Noon* (1951) lifted the Western genre to new heights.

His other films included *A Man for All Seasons*, for which he won an Oscar in 1966, *Okla. From Here to Eternity* and *The Day of the Jackal*.



Canadian MDs help heal Mideast wounds

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Two neighbors had a fight decades ago and don't know how to make up. A third party gets the disputants interested in a subject that would benefit both of them, thereby eliminating the grudges, smoothing over sensitivities and healing the wounds.

This is very much like the situation involving a non-governmental organization in Canada with strong ties to both Israel and the Arab world. The Isabel Silverman Canada International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO) hopes to be a catalyst for bringing Israelis, Jordanians, Palestinians and others together by encouraging joint medical research and collaboration.

CISEPO was founded in 1984 by Prof. Arnold Noyek, chief of otolaryngology at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. It began as a bilateral program between Israel and Canada and specifically in promoting cooperation in the ear-nose-and-throat specialty, especially in dealing with cancer in these organs. But within two years, Noyek and his colleagues decided to expand CISEPO's agenda, and the Middle East peace process showed the direction for its growing interests. "We decided to weave Israel into the fabric and bring others into it so that everyone benefits," said Noyek in a recent interview during one of his very frequent visits to Israel.

CISEPO, which has an annual budget of \$300,000 (mostly from the Saul Silverman Family Foundation in Toronto), forged formal links with Hadassah-University Hospitals in Jerusalem, the Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikva, Wolfson Hospital in Holon, the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot and Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, as well as the King Hussein Medical Center in Amman, Green Lane Hospital in Auckland, New Zealand, and University Hospital in Utrecht, the Netherlands. It also has ties with the Arab community in Canada, which numbers in the tens of thousands.

"We have excellent relations with Palestine House-Canada in Toronto, which is headed by Rashad Saleh and Shauki Pabel. At the same time, we have close ties with B'nai B'rith and the Canadian Jewish Congress, and representatives of both have met with heads of Palestine House."

Using its connections with Canadian medical institutions, CISEPO aims to enrich academic medicine and health care both locally and internationally and - with respect to Israel and its neighbors - "to contribute to enhancing security and peace and furthering the goal of economic and cultural growth and development," Noyek explained.

The program provides academic, financial and directorial support to several programs here and has initiated collaborative research and medical service programs in this area involving Canadian and Middle Eastern professionals.

"When medical cultures rub up against each other, the result is synergistic. Both of them gain," Noyek said, when asked how Canada benefits by its connections to doctors in other countries.

Among the senior Israeli physicians who have benefited from the program are Prof. Rafi Feinmesser, a leading otolaryngologist at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus; students of Prof. Yosef Elidan, head of the ear-nose-and-throat depart-

ment at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem; Dr. Yehuda Roth of Wolfson; and Dr. Dan Fliss of Soroka. They were sent to Canada for two years to study advanced techniques not then known in Israel. When they returned, they instituted treatments and research here that would otherwise not have been possible.

Feinmesser opened a molecular biology lab at Beilinson and his unit became the leading thyroid cancer center in the region, Noyek noted. Fliss, who trained in Canada five years ago, brought back an expertise in skull-based ENT surgery. "For years, surgeons thought they couldn't get into these parts of the body because the difficult location made them inaccessible. But now we know how to do it safely."

Elidan and his colleagues have developed a way to study evoked potential (using an electronic monitor without the patient's active involvement) to find the cause of balance disorders. This directly resulted from the CISEPO project. Roth, who has just completed his two years in Canada, is about to open a nasal-airflow lab at Wolfson.

Noyek said CISEPO's programs are growing to other disciplines, but that as ENT is his specialty - and because otolaryngology was the pioneer in endoscopy and other non-invasive medical procedures - it will continue to be prominent. So far, CISEPO researchers have produced an impressive 250 medical articles in textbooks and prominent journals around the world.

Philip Aber, CISEPO's policy planning adviser who accompanied Noyek on his latest trip, noted that recent meetings they organized in Gaza involving Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians were very successful. "The Jordanians are very encouraging of scientific cooperation with Canada and want it to expand to other neighbors in the region," he said. "The same is true of the Palestinians, but it has to occur at a pace that satisfies all the partners."

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza met with Noyek and Aber during their visit here and strongly endorsed efforts to serve as a bridge between doctors in the region. "Israel can and should reach out to its neighbors and establish lasting partnerships that address common interests. Our organization can serve as an honest broker," Aber added. The result is the establishment of a CISEPO Canada-Israel-Palestinian Authority medical and health services program. It will extend to dentistry, nursing, public health and other medical and paramedical specialties.

Palestinian doctors are "realistic" about the need for cooperation with Israelis, said Aber. "They and the Israelis both know you can't have economic and social development without peace, or peace without economic and social development."

Cancer affects every nation, thus the Middle East Cancer Consortium (including Cyprus, Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority - with Turkey soon to join) has been enthusiastically received by participants. CISEPO, as a voluntary organization with good contacts among the other partners, has been chosen Canada's official representative for the consortium, whose international executive director is Professor Michael Silberman, the Health Ministry's former chief scientist.

If cancer can help long-festering neighbors to find common interests and work together, then so be it.

Haredim care for their own

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Rochelle lies on a thick foam mattress surrounded by toys and waits for her turn with the physiotherapist. The only things that seem to move in this four-year-old with cerebral palsy are her eyes: her pupils dart constantly from one side to another, as if they were trying to escape from a body that doesn't work properly.

The sweet-looking child is one of 80 aged one to 13 who are being cared for at Tikvah Layeled, a CP rehabilitation and special-education center in Jerusalem's Bayit Vegan quarter. It's the only such facility in the capital for children with CP from the haredi community - which for years tended to virtually hide such children in closets for fear that their mere existence would harm their siblings' chances for a good match for marriage.

Today, the problems and needs of physically and even mentally disabled children in the haredi community have emerged from the closet, and families stricken by such disorders have set up voluntary organizations to meet their unique needs.

Fifteen years ago, it happened to Zvi Braitein and his wife Sheindele. They had two healthy children, and then triplets were born: two healthy girls and one boy, Yoel, who was different. Zvi, a 13th-generation Jerusalemite and the son of the long-time secretary of the Eda Haredit, made his living producing leather housings for teffilin, and he had never even heard of cerebral palsy.

He soon learned that the condition strikes 0.7% of all babies, affects over 10,000 Israelis, and is caused by injury to the central nervous system during pregnancy, delivery or soon after.

When Yoel's problem was finally diagnosed at the age of two, Zvi took him and the whole family to Brooklyn, where he was put in touch with another teffilin-maker who had a son with CP and who ran a rehabilitation institute for such children. "I met numerous Israeli families like ours who left the country to get help for their children in a religious atmosphere," recalls Zvi, a Hassid who wears ritual fringes out-

side his shirt and black trousers tucked into long black socks - yet his openness and familiarity with medical conditions are incongruously modern. "I thought to myself: if I can take an inanimate piece of animal skin and mold it into boxes to hold teffilin parchment, then one could take a CP child, who has a soul, and help make him better."

Although Zvi found work in his vocation in New York, the Braiteins wanted to return to Jerusalem, but they could do so only if they had a suitable place for treating Yoel. He was enrolled in the rehabilitative kindergarten directed by the late pediatric neurologist Prof. Naomi Amir, and he progressed neurologically. But the parents felt uncomfortable that their son, who is a bright boy, didn't get the type of religious training they were accustomed to. "There are some 200 severely disabled Jewish children, some of them haredim, under care of nuns in Ein Kerem. Their parents may feel they have no alternative, but we wanted our son to live with us, and we needed help."

"We dreamed of setting up a CP clinic; we never dreamed of being able to develop the facilities we have today," continues Braitein. Tikvah Layeled's main facility is Neveh Zvi, a five-story rented apartment building at 16 Rehov Sha'ar Torah in Jerusalem. CP youngsters - not only haredim but also from non-religious and modern Orthodox families - are bused in, and spend more than eight hours a day with a staff of highly professional teachers and physical and occupational therapists.

There are computers, special therapeutic equipment (including customized boots that hold the feet straight to stretch spastic hamstrings), electric wheelchairs and catered meals for the children, whose parents pay a nominal NIS 100 to NIS 150 a month for care. The rest is covered by contributions from the Jerusalem Municipality, the ministries of Education and Labor and Social Affairs, and by private donors.

One of the most moving experiences, recalls Braitein, was going into the building recently and seeing the whole staff and children over-



A child with cerebral palsy is treated at Tikvah Layeled.

come with emotion. "There were tears in their eyes, and at first, I was worried that something bad had happened. But I could see they were happy. They told me that one four-year-old boy, who had been undergoing physical therapy for 18 months, had taken his first step and begun to walk. This was just one reward for hard work."

Marvin Samuels, a New York philanthropist, serves as president of the organization, and Canadian businessman Albert Reichman is a member of the board. Esther Wolf heads the Israeli women's committee that helps support the organiza-

tion, while a distinguished medical board includes senior experts in the field, including Dr. Paul Jordan of New York Hospital, Dr. Warwick Peacock of the University of California at Los Angeles, Dr. Fred Epstein of New York University, and Prof. David Segal, Yehuda Shapira and Ilan Arad of the Hadassah-University Hospitals in Jerusalem.

Segal, who heads the orthopedics department at the Ein Kerem hospital, declares that he can "say only good things about Tikvah Layeled. Ten years ago, the Braiteins consulted me and explained the special

needs of haredi children with CP. No matter how much the family love them, CP children need a lot of help, and their progress is very slow. It's not like an orthopedic problem that you operate on and solve. Recovery is not complete.

"For resources, staff size and facilities, no institution dealing with the physically handicapped can compete with Jerusalem's Alyn Hospital, which is one of the best in the world. But for those haredi families that wanted a framework of their own, any organization that provides professional, high-level assistance in a way that makes parents comfortable is a boon."

In addition to Neveh Zvi, Tikvah Layeled also supports the local production of children's wheelchairs and therapeutic workstations for free distribution to hospitals, institutions and private families. It also brings foreign medical experts here for training local doctors in the most advanced methods and operations, sponsors symposia, provides personal family counseling, organizes CP parent support groups and operates a broad volunteer program that directly helps parents function on a daily basis.

Braitein, now the father of 13, living in the Ramot quarter of Jerusalem, worries about what will happen when the youngsters reach the age of 18. "We will add extra classrooms as they get older, but when they reach adulthood, someone else will have to establish a place for them."

As it is, Tikvah Layeled has a long waiting list, and could double or triple the number of youngsters if it had the facilities. It only now received a donation to install an elevator in the building; until it is built, parents and therapists have to carry them up the stairs. "We dream of having a building of our own that's physically suited to the needs of the children," Braitein says.

"The conditions are not ideal," says physical therapist Yocheved Azulai. "But we manage with what we have. Progress for a CP child isn't measured in terms of passing exams. We have a feeling of satisfaction when we know we've done something that makes the child feel good."

HEALTH SCAN

Smoking in pregnancy increases risk of handicapped baby

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

If women don't yet have a good reason not to smoke during pregnancy, here's one: a study published recently in the prestigious journal *Pediatrics* found that the risk of having a mentally handicapped baby is at least 50 percent higher in women who smoked during pregnancy than those who didn't. The study, quoted in a recent issue of the Hebrew-language *The Israel Journal of Family Practice*, notes that pregnant women who smoked over a pack a day were 75 percent more likely to have a mentally deficient child. This is in addition to a much greater risk of low birth weight, complications during delivery and crib death.

Dr. Alon Margalit of the family medicine department at Ben-Gurion University notes as an addendum to the article: "If this piece of research doesn't induce mothers to stop smoking, then what will?"

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH
Aging skin can rehabilitate



(Nisim Shorer)

itself, according to new research conducted at the Rapaport School of Medicine at the Haifa

Technion. But don't get your hopes up yet for a rejuvenation: it has been shown so far to work

only on mice.

Dr. Amos Gilhar took skin from an elderly person and transplant-

ed it onto the body of a special variety of hairless mice which have a weak immune system and thus can't reject the transplanted tissue. Three months later, the transplanted patch regained its original thickness and looked like that of a youngster.

To check the results, Gilhar counted the number of melanocytes (pigment cells) in the skin, which decrease in number with aging due to exposure to the sun by about 8 percent every decade after the age of 20. He found the number of melanocytes in the transplanted skin was significantly higher.

The rejuvenation secret is apparently in the increase in the presence of cytokines, which are proteins that stimulate the renewal of skin.

As people get older, they have fewer cytokines, but when placed on a young animal, many of them were restored.

The Technion researcher says it's unlikely that the fountain of youth will be found in the near future, but he does believe that "science will discover the secret of aging - in the cells."

Rx FOR READERS

Digital thermometers can be as accurate as mercury type

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

Is a digital thermometer as accurate as a conventional mercury one? If so, why don't they use them in hospitals? D.R., Ashkelon.

Dr. Avi Livnat, director of the medical device department at the Health Ministry in Jerusalem, replies: "There are many different types of digital thermometers, some of them very accurate and some less so. In general, the thermometer in the form of a pacifier is less accurate than that which measures temperature via the ear. In most cases, the variations are not in several degrees Celsius but in tenths of a degree."

Our department has checked some of them and has issued letters of approval to those that meet our standards.

Consumers should ask the pharmacist to see the letter of ministry approval before buying. Unfortunately, we haven't examined all of them, as we are still waiting for the passage of a law that would require all medical equipment to be registered by my department before it can be imported and marketed.

We won't have to check all of them ourselves, as we accept rulings of the US Food and Drug Administration, the British medical device agency and others abroad; we will check all Israeli-made devices that haven't yet been approved by foreign agencies.



(David Branner)

Conventional thermometers with mercury are cheap and highly accurate; they don't break down except when they're broken to pieces. But your statement that digital ther-

момeters are not used in hospitals is incorrect. Most neonatal departments use them on infants. Many have a cheap disposable tip so they don't even have to be sterilized. But

some hospitals don't use them because of the cost - and conservatism. If you see that a certain brand of digital thermometer is used in a hospital, you can be well assured that it is an accurate model.

What type of pillow is better for an asthmatic: down or synthetic?
A.T., Beersheba.

Prof. Meir Shalit, director of the Internal Medicine A Department at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem and an expert at the hospital's allergy and clinical immunology unit, answers: "Asthmatics who suffer from the type caused or worsened by allergies to the excrement of house-dust mites are advised to purchase special covers to their pillows, blankets and mattresses."

These mites, invisible to the human eye, live in rugs, pillows, mattresses and blankets. These special zippered covers, while expensive, can prevent the mites from colonizing. In general, there are fewer mites in synthetic pillows than in down pillows, but the special cover is highly recommended.

Such environmental control can significantly reduce asthma attacks in those patients allergic to dust mites. Not all doctors remember to give their patients this advice.


Does eating chicken have a harmful effect on one's blood-cho-

lesterol level? E.E., Jerusalem.

Rene Lipa, director of the nutrition and diet unit at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus, replies:

Chicken skin adds considerably to the cholesterol, fat and caloric level of portions in which they are served. It is not necessary to remove the skin before cooking, unless you are cooking it with rice, potatoes or other vegetables that absorb the fat and from which it cannot be separated. When cooking chicken soup or gravies, it's easy to cool the liquid until the fat congeals and then remove it. If serving chicken whole, you should remove the skin before eating it. I recommend this as a preventive measure for healthy people with low cholesterol levels, and certainly to people with high levels who suffer from heart disease. Replacing part of the animal fat in one's diet with olive oil, avocado and olives is strongly recommended.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page. Write Rx For Readers, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax it to (02) 538-9527 or e-mail it to jstie@post.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.



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Hussein's condolence call

Today's visit here by Jordan's King Hussein is a reminder that in the Middle East, personal gestures are often as important as political decisions. The tragic background to the king's visit – the merciless slaughter of seven young schoolgirls at Naharayim – again highlights the delicate nature of peace in this area.

Royal words of condolence, of course, cannot compensate the families for their loss and the king's famous charm cannot be expected to heal the scars the massacre has left. But the king's short stay in Israel can do much to ease the crisis atmosphere created – both here and in Jordan – by his harsh letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week. If Hussein can send a new message today, one which firmly rejects the inevitability of violence, then his visit will have served its purpose.

The peace process between Israel and her Arab neighbors has never run smoothly; the exhaustive emotional roundabout of crisis followed by celebration has become a predictable cycle of events; the last example being the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit and the subsequent violence, followed by the Hebron redeployment and the international hailing of Netanyahu as a sensible peacemaker.

The government's decisions to build on Jerusalem's Har Homa and to redeploy from only two percent of Area C in the West Bank set

off a new round of despondency in the region. While the government acted within the letter of the Oslo Accords in both cases, it ignored the spirit of the agreement in that it failed to even try to win the Palestinians' tacit agreement for these unilateral decisions. Although it is unlikely the Palestinians would have agreed to either step, an honest attempt by the government to explain Israel's position, coupled with progress on other matters such as the Gaza airport, would have served to soften the blow and lessen tension.

The cabinet's decision on Friday to go ahead with construction this week at Har Homa was inevitable; to do otherwise would have been interpreted in the Arab world as a sign of weakness and readiness to bend under pressure. Just as inevitable were Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's remarks at the Gaza conference this weekend that the government's actions spelled the end of the peace process.

It is now up to Netanyahu and Arafat to climb down from their respective trees and move forward. Having seen on Thursday the terrible results of angry rhetoric culminating in violence, Arafat must ensure that this weekend's conference does not provide justification for bloodshed. Netanyahu's task is to convince Arafat that construction on mainly Jewish-owned land in Jerusalem is not a nail in Oslo's coffin.

Lands in need of hope

Individual countries have their hopeless-case areas – inner cities, trailer-parks, ghettos of unabsorbed immigrants. Continents seem to have similar places and, in Europe, it must be the area known loosely as the Balkans.

After the lost decades of being locked in the strait-jacket of communist obedience, followed by the horrific conflicts in Yugoslavia, the last few months have seen a worrisome spread of new discontent in the region, accompanied by an equally disturbing failure of democratic values to take root. The problem became glaringly obvious in Serbia, where the cynical President Slobodan Milosevic most brazenly tried to hijack local elections and then to face down a winter of determined revolt in the streets.

Economic chaos in Bulgaria likewise brought the citizens to the streets and this week we have seen a breakdown of near-Bosnian proportions sweep Albania, fueled by public fury over failed pyramid financial schemes.

When former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev abandoned the old Brezhnev Doctrine of controlling Moscow's east European satellites, he said he was replacing it with the Sinatra Doctrine – they could henceforth do it their way. Unfortunately, the Balkan way was not what Gorbachev had in mind.

The anger and frustration of the Balkan populations stems not just from the realization that they are nowhere near acquiring western European lifestyles. They are nowhere near acquiring eastern European progress either. So far, Slovenia looks like the exception that proves the Balkan rule of disorder.

It is no surprise that the Balkan protesters have turned their fury on their governments. They have every right to feel cheated by leaders who refuse to accept the rules of the game of

democracy, who behave like South American generalissimos, and who think economics is the science of making politicians rich. The people feel as if politicians like Milosevic and Albania's Sali Berisha are stealing their future from under their noses.

In Albania's case, literally. The government failed to warn the public about the pyramid savings schemes so well known in the West but new to the naive people of a formerly isolated state. Some government officials even encouraged and profited from the nationwide rip-off. Huge sectors of the population have lost what meager life savings they had, leaving them a destitute island on a continent that grows wealthier all around them. "We [in the Balkans] all feel like we belong to a European losers' club," a senior economics academic in Belgrade recently told *The Washington Post*. "We're just way behind the rest of the continent, including central Europe."

The only speck of light in the darkness that has descended on heavily armed rebel Albania is that the traditional rivals of the country's north and south so far have shown no sign of any Bosnian-style desire to start fighting one another. Albanian patriotism may win out over Balkan division. But the European powers must not dither here as they did for so long over Bosnia.

Since the Albanian army and police hate Berisha as roundly as other Albanians, it is likely that outside intervention may be needed to disarm the lawless population. The Europeans will need to offer much material help to drag Albania back from the abyss, but the most vital commodity these angry people need now is hope, not just for a good future – but for any future at all.



The geography of fear

DAVID NEWMAN

For a country that claims to be in control, there are too many no-go areas, too many invisible lines we are afraid to cross. And last Thursday's horrific attack at Naharayim only added to a sense that even the "safe" places may no longer be safe.

The news earlier in the week that the guard at the small West Bank settlement of Tene had been stabbed by a terrorist caused a minor panic in my home community of Metar. We are just a few kilometers south of Tene, albeit on the other side of the Green Line, and on a clear day we can see the roofs of its houses.

Metar is by no means a small community. It consists of nearly 1,200 families – some five or six thousand residents – and continues to grow as part of the expanding metropolitan growth of the Beersheba region.

Although Tene was founded before Metar, its location on the "other" side of the Green Line was always a factor mitigating against its rapid growth.

By contrast, Metar, whose first residents arrived in 1985, has managed to attract a cross-section of Israeli society, right- and left-wing, religious and secular, Ashkenazi and Sephardi. Given our heightened degree of social tension, they all manage to live together in relative harmony.

The last two election campaigns have shown support for all the major parties to be a mirror image of national voting patterns, with Labor and the Likud coming in a strong first and second, followed by Meretz and the National Religious Party.

Metar is located on the direct route from Beersheba to Jerusalem. The distance, via Hebron, is no more than 70 km. as compared with a much longer route – some 120 km. – if you drive via the Tel Aviv road and Kiryat Gat. But the vast majority of residents in Metar opt for the longer route.

With the exception of a small group of residents who regularly travel to pray in Hebron as a political and religious statement, few members of our community take the short and quick route to Jerusalem.

The invisible line separating

Israel from the West Bank is a factor which determines where, and how, residents of Israel travel freely.

Prior to 1987 and the beginning of the intifada, it was quite common for residents of Beersheba to take the narrow, meandering, Hebron route. But following the outbreak of violence, the number of travelers plummeted. In fact,

There are too many no-go areas, too many invisible lines we are afraid to cross

the flow dried up. The taxi route ceased to operate, and the Egged bus route on this line was reduced to two buses a day.

Those who continued to travel that route reinforced the windows of their vehicles and carried arms at the ready. Most simply stopped traveling on any route that was perceived as being too dangerous.

THE Oslo agreement has led to the construction of the Dahariya and Hebron bypass roads, which shorten the travel time to Jerusalem even more. A few additional travelers have ventured out on this quiet and scenic route, but for most it remains a geographical no-go area.

I have taken to reusing this old-new route to Jerusalem, and have not yet encountered any problems. My car does not have reinforced windows – nor do I, in principle, carry arms. I can reach Jerusalem in less than an hour, and my relatives in Gush Etzion in no more than 40 minutes.

Despite my support for the peace process and my belief in the need for a Palestinian state which will encompass the majority of the West Bank, I have no ideological problem about traveling along the neighboring roads.

But I am equally aware that I could, just once, choose the wrong place on the wrong day, and that the person holding the

gun or the stone would be completely unaware – and uninterested – in my political views.

As I drive through Halhoul, my state of alertness increases, then, as I pass Gush Etzion and drive through the impressive new tunnels, I automatically relax.

I suppose I am a fatalist – or that I don't really believe it could happen to me.

On one recent journey I took my children along for the ride, and was subsequently criticized by colleagues and neighbors for being an irresponsible parent and endangering their lives.

And even I have my limits. I will take the route only during daylight hours; I won't chance my luck at night, when vision is limited and something unexpected might be waiting for me around the next corner.

Yes, for a society that claims to be the controller, there is a tremendous amount of geographical fear.

The Right argues that we are displaying weakness, and urges us to strengthen our presence with settlements and fences and guns. But that path can only lead to a general increase in violence and terror.

The Left argues that the only way to solve the problem is to disengage, create new fences and walls, to separate one people physically from the other.

Possibly, in the first instance, the latter option is necessary for creating a situation of relative calm and mutual security.

But in the long term, the two peoples live on, and share, a very small piece of real estate. If we are going to find a way of living together, or side by side, then we are going to have to share our roads, our water and our many other resources.

We are going to have to start, very slowly, to trust the vast majority of the "other" people.

Somewhat, we are going to have to rid ourselves of the invisible lines that create our geographies of fear.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University.

Mob rule

HAIM SHAPIRO

The Jehovah's Witnesses are not easy people to get along with. I remember with distaste the way they stood on street corners in the US, trying to sell their magazine, *Watchtower*, and the way they went from house to house trying to convince people of their beliefs.

In a country like Israel, where missionary activity is viewed by many with hate and suspicion, it would be much easier for all concerned if they weren't around.

However, the fact is that they do exist here.

According to their own reckoning, their community includes about 2,000 people, with some 750-800 "active" members going from house to house to "talk about the Bible."

We would call them aggressive missionaries. And one of their congregations, out of either naivete and ignorance or pig-headed perversity, rented a meeting hall near a Habad neighborhood and school in Lod.

It was almost inevitable that trouble would arise. And one night almost understand shouts and taunts from the haredim in the area.

But friction was not confined to words alone. On Saturday night, March 1, a group of haredim gathered outside the Jehovah's Witness meeting hall in Lod and attacked those leaving with stones and bricks. The police arrived and actually witnessed the attack, but were either unable or unwilling to arrest any of the perpetrators.

During the following week, the hall was daubed with graffiti, including the words "extermination camp." On Saturday night March 8, when the hall was empty, a mob broke into the building, wrecked the hall, and made a bonfire of the Bibles and religious literature.

Eyewitnesses reported that the mob sang and danced around the burning books. Again the police

The true test of a democracy is not how it treats 'nice' minorities, but how it deals with the unpleasant ones

said they had been unable to identify the assailants.

THE perpetrators may have been unaware of the fact that Jehovah's Witnesses were one of the groups persecuted and sent to concentration camps in Nazi Germany. Dedicated pacifists, they were considered dangerous to the state. It is this same pacifism that makes them unwilling to fight back when attacked.

Contrary to what many people believe, there is no law against missionary activity in Israel. The only law on the books forbids trying to proselytize minors or offering material benefits as an incentive to change someone's faith.

No one has ever been prosecuted under this law. Indeed, some Christian groups argue that the Israeli legal system, which enables some foreigners to become classified as new immigrants upon conversion to Judaism and thus enjoy the accompanying financial benefits, is, in fact, the offering of such material incentives.

The Jehovah's Witnesses are a particularly vulnerable group. Their missionary work makes them an object of dislike. Their pacifism means that one can attack them without fear of reprisal. They have no political clout.

When a Catholic Church in Jaffa was attacked last year, there was an instant – and justifiable – wave of protest both in Israel and abroad. When the hall in Lod was attacked, there was barely an echo.

The deputy commander of the Lod police did call in three rabbis and warn them that such acts were illegal. However, since the warning came only after the attack, and the police seem unable to do anything about bringing the perpetrators to justice, the warning is feeble, at best.

The true test of a democracy is not how it treats "nice" minorities, but how it deals with the unpleasant ones.

I will continue to dislike and disapprove of the Jehovah's Witnesses. If they come to my door, I will turn them away. But they have a legal right to carry on with their missionary work. If they did not have such a right, Israel would be a police state.

To imagine that anyone can, with impunity, attack such people, wreck their place of worship, and burn their books, is a nightmare, and evokes the most hideous historical parallels.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POOR PARENTING

Sir, – The widespread criticism of Sara Netanyahu, given her deliberate high profile, is inevitable.

In particular am deeply critical of her boasting on television when she spoke of her son throwing off all the pillows from a White House couch. In the States, we children were taught "If it doesn't belong to you, don't touch it."

The Netanyahu's child showed, to Americans, very bad upbringing. NAOMI KUBITSKY

Ganei Omer

ABROGATION

Sir, – Is abrogation of the PLO Covenant meaningful or meaningless? Our prime minister, who had been so firm in his condemnation of the covenant before the elections, has recently veered to the latter perception.

This is certainly a cause for great alarm. Does he no longer acknowledge the power of words to inflame or calm, to bring about conflict or conciliation?

The covenant calls for Israel's obliteration. As long as this call is not categorically and clearly repealed, Arabs will continue to see it as their goal.

The French had their "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," the Americans had their "No Taxation without Representation" – and today the Arabs persist in clinging to "An End to the Jewish State!" MENACHEM BLOCK

Givatayim.

CRIMINAL PROJECT

Sir, – I was jubilant to read in *The Jerusalem Post* of March 10 that "Conservationists protest project off Bat Galim." This insane and criminal "project" has long also raised my ire for many excellent reasons. More power to the elbow of The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. PROF. DR. MARGE E. LANDSBERG

Haifa.

LOOK TO JERUSALEM

Sir, – I have news for Shlomo Gazit. In "Jerusalem in the world's eyes" (March 3), he writes: "It won't be easy for 2.5 billion believers to hand over the keys of the city [Jerusalem] to a religion which constitutes only half a percent of all those who look to Jerusalem."

No one, Mr. Gazit, has to hand over to us the keys of Jerusalem. One David Ben-Yishai, King of Israel, acquired them already 3,000 years ago, and – this time forever – since 1967, the keys, paid for in the dearest currency that exists, our soldiers' blood, are again in Israel's sole and exclusive possession.

Mr. Gazit's figure, 2.5 billion believers who "look to Jerusalem," is utterly absurd. Practically all of them look, if anywhere, to Mecca or to Rome or to their local football stadiums. And rightly so. There is only one nation which for thousands of years has constantly dreamt of, and yearned and prayed and fought for, Jerusalem. BEN SHUA

Jerusalem.

LAX ENFORCEMENT

Sir, – I had occasion to visit Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot and witnessed some very disturbing things. Among them was a total disregard for the warning signs stating specifically, no smoking and no cellular phones allowed.

I found that there are no designated smoking areas and that when one is forced to stand for some minutes waiting for an elevator, a person could die for lack of breathable air, the smoke was so thick! I further witnessed someone with a cellular phone in a delivery room.

I am intrigued as to why hospital authorities are not more strict and watchful of visitors who consistently violate rules when the health of patients is involved. A.G. SLATTS-WEINBERG

Rehovot.

PERES CLONE

Sir, – Why all the excitement over the cloning of sheep? We in Israel have a prime minister who is a clone of his predecessor. Of equal scientific interest, our prime minister is proof that an invertebrate can successfully pass for a man. MOSHE SAPERSTEIN

Jerusalem.

CENSURING HIM

Sir, – Our Knesset should repudiate the remarks and behavior of MK Ze'evi to US Ambassador Indyk by passing a resolution censuring him. ELI RIRDEN

Ra'anana.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Tanya swims with her pet shark in a pool in Warsaw. She plays with dangerous sharks to raise funds for research which, we're sure, the sharks appreciate very much. (Reuters)

POSTSCRIPTS

JOHN YOUNG is keeping a wary eye on traffic outside his Peoria, Illinois, home since his address mistakenly was publicized as that of a convicted sex offender. "I've been looking out the window and seeing a lot of people I've never seen before driving by real slow," Young said. "Maybe it's my imagination. But it's scary. I don't need anyone burn-

ing my house down." Names and addresses of convicted sex offenders became available to the public under a new Illinois law. But there were errors in a list of 134 names and addresses of sex violators obtained by the local newspaper. Young said his address was incorrectly given as the home of his brother Roger who was convicted of aggravated criminal sex-

ual abuse. Angela Bennett said her address was given as the home of a sex offender, but he had moved sometime before her family moved in. "I don't need the hate mail or someone coming over and spray painting my house because they think a sex offender lives here. And there are people in this town who will do that," she said.

ON CAMERA

Desert photography

By DAVID BRAUNER

The camera is no stranger to the desert. Within months of Daguerre's invention of photography in 1839, a French team headed out to the exotic and arid lands of the Middle East. Artist Horace Vernet and his technician nephew wrote home from Cairo: "We are daguerotyping like lions."

The most intrepid 19th-century desert photographer was Englishman Francis Frith. In 1856, he tackled the overhated wilderness regions of the Holy Land, the Sinai and Egypt, where he journeyed 2,415 kilometers up the Nile. At times, temperatures inside his horse-drawn darkroom reached 55 degrees Celsius. The extreme heat sometimes caused the wet collodion

emulsion to boil when Frith poured it on the glass plates. Looking at an 1857 Frith photograph of Mt. Sinai, one instantly recognizes the photographer's fascination with the barren majesty of mountain and the surrounding rocky plain. Since the last century, many nature, landscape and art photographers have found themselves drawn to the seemingly changeless drier

regions of the earth. Some, like Ansel Adams, Minor White and Elliot Porter, have devoted large portions of their oeuvre to the badlands of North America.

Here, where the 12,000 square kilometers of the Negev mountains and steppe cover about half of the country's area, it is little wonder that many of our finest photographers gravitate to the south of the country. Photographic books inspired by Israel's desert lands have been published by naturalist Dr. David Darom, nature photographer Shai Ginott, landscape artist Neil Folberg, and the late Gail Rubin, to mention but a few. Wadis, dunes and nomadic peoples have been the subjects of numerous exhibits. Springs and pools highlight artist-photographer Howard Clapsaddle's introspective "Pockets of Silence," currently on show at the Jerusalem Theater.

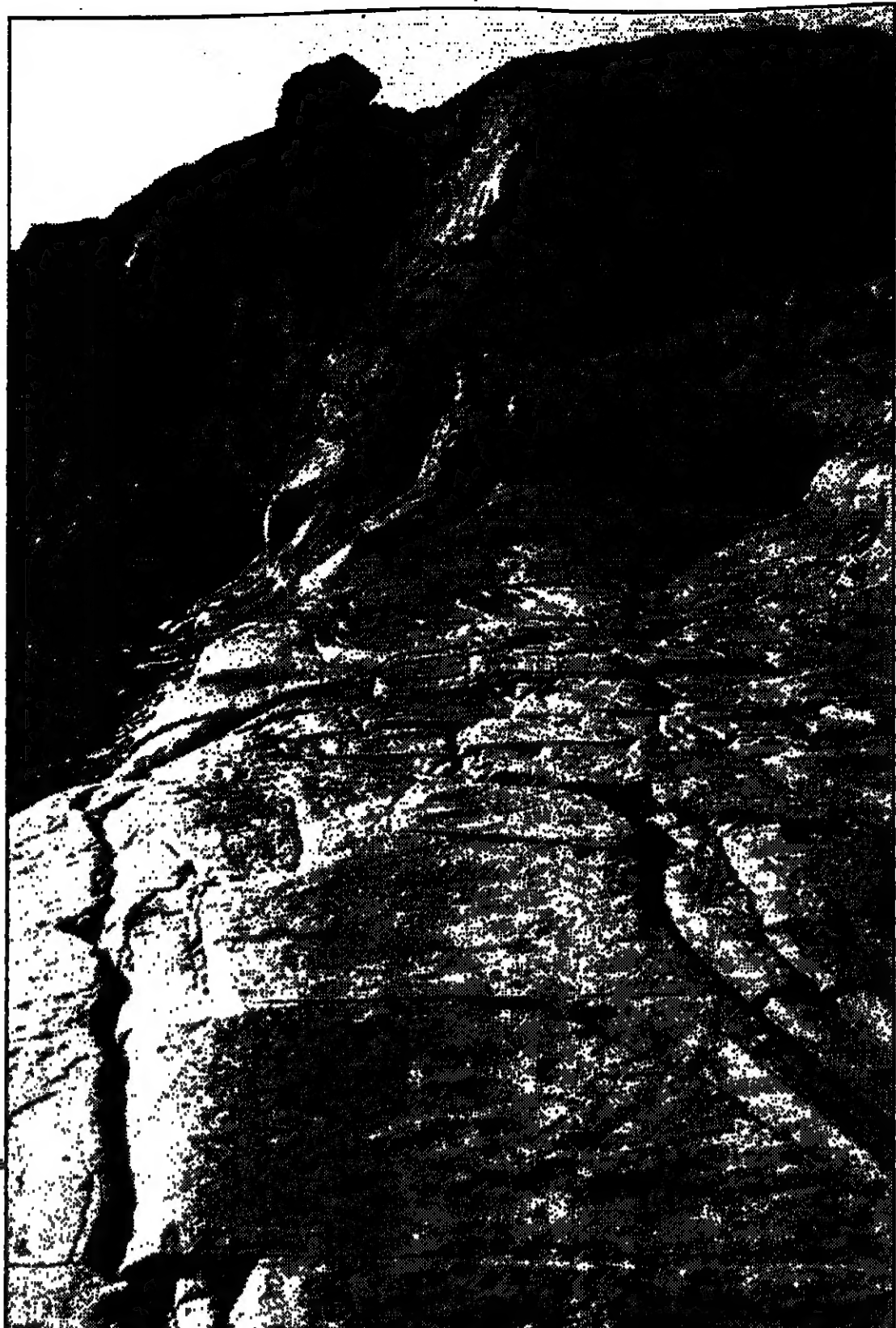
Perhaps for most of us, the Arava or the Negev is something to get through on the way to Eilat. At a casual glance, the view appears as empty, boring wasteland, devoid of anything worth stopping for. Yet, the desert is anything but, as I found out on a recent visit to Sde Boker and Mitzpe Ramon.

To know the desert, the photographer has to be close to it. That means walking, stopping, waiting and observing. You don't have to go far. Just follow a dry river bed, or one of the many marked trails. Winter is a good time, simply because there's water in the wadis and the sun isn't so sizzling hot. Soft, even afternoon light makes powerful pictures.

The desert is in many ways the ultimate challenge for the photographer. To begin with, its very vastness is a problem to convey. Not even the widest wide-angle lens can capture the richness of the space or the enormity of the silence that one experiences in the desert.

It is far better to take a minimalist approach. Train your eyes to see the small things that indicate the essence of the unforgiving landscape that they are a part of. As you walk along a wadi, you will notice huge boulders becoming loose scree, and slabs underfoot sculpted by thousands of years of seasonally flowing water. A twig growing out of a rock face, animal tracks, the lone acacia tree all make interesting subjects because they contrast survival with the inhospitable.

Don't be surprised to see animal life, especially near watering places at dawn and dusk. In the late after-



Sculpted rock in Nahal Zin in the late afternoon.

(David Brauner)



Reflection in a desert pool, Ein Avdat.

(David Brauner)

noon we were surprised to find a head of Nubian ibex on a walk along the rim of the Ramon crater. These noble, long-horned wild goats were not camera shy.

For color workers, the desert offers a full palette. The rusts and yellows of the lichen patches growing on the rocks make fine studies. Or contrast

the wide, dark-green leaves of the lily-like asphodel spouting up like a fountain between red and gray rocks. Take advantage of the reflections of quiet pools to make "fold-out" mirror images.

In a few days of desert photography, I used my full range of equipment. The 28 mm. wide-angle lens

came in handy for landscapes and tight places. The 200 mm. telephoto lens served me well for getting closer to the ibex. A set of close-up filters for small flowers and fossils, and red filter was perfect for the dazzling sunsets. But with any camera, the desert is a great place to practice photography.

HEADS 'N' TAILS

All in the head... or the hormones

By DVORA BEN SHAUL

A reader writes: I was absolutely dumbfounded. I found a tiny kitten about two or three days old and was trying to feed and care for it. One morning the kitten was gone from its carton. I found it in the basket with our three-year-old cocker spaniel. She was nuzzling it and it was suckling from her. I checked, and she actually had milk in her teats. She has always had shots to prevent estrus and has never had puppies. How can one explain this?

Although this is not by any means a usual happening, it is far less rare than one might imagine. It is most likely that your adoption of the kitten happened to coincide with a pseudo pregnancy in your dog. These pseudo or false pregnancies are not at all rare.

But, in this case, she not only had the pseudo pregnancy but suddenly found that somehow she had a "puppy." Her hormones went from the pregnancy into lactation.

This is the easiest explanation,

but not the only one.

Experiments have shown that some animals, and also human females, can lactate under the stimulus of parenting. One particular experiment actually showed that more than half of the women in the study who were all waiting to adopt babies that were to be born within two to three months were able, by concentration and massage, to induce lactation.

I once had a Great Dane bitch that was neither pregnant nor even showing any signs of a pseudo pregnancy but when one of my Cane ani bitches died just after whelping, the Great Dane at first licked and nuzzled the pup and then raised all four of the pups herself.

In actuality, not a lot is known about the relationship between emotions and hormones although there is plenty of reason to suspect that there is a great amount of interplay in these two areas.

We do know that emotional reactions, such as stress and anxiety, can alter a woman's

menstrual cycle and that the same forces can affect attempts to conceive. We also know that these factors can cause great fluctuations in a man's testosterone level. As for mammals, it's a problem because we know so little about their mental states. In most cases we anthropomorphize and attribute behavioral manifestations to situations that resemble them in humans. But whether these are the same states, we have no way of knowing.

As for pseudo pregnancies in general, goats have them at times and dogs quite often. Some breeds are more prone to this complication than others, in particular cocker spaniels and Labradors.

Although it can happen in any breed, it is most common in smaller breeds. In any case, the situation is something that passes in a few weeks.

The best way to stop it is to change the bitch's routine, take her for a walk in a new place or for a trip in the car. Anything that will, may I say without anthropomorphizing, get her mind off her problems.

As Irish as the Blarney Stone

By DANIEL ROGOV

Throughout the world there is probably not a man, woman or child of Irish descent who is not aware that tomorrow is St. Patrick's Day. This is, however, the first year that those in Israel will have a chance to take part in the festivities. In addition to a gala reception being hosted by the Irish ambassador in Herzliya Pines, 12 local pubs are devoting a week or longer to the pleasures of Irish music and beverages.

As has happened every year since 1449, the gold and blue flags that usually decorate the cathedral in Dublin have been replaced by green pennants, and in the tiny village of Holmpatrick, the church and every house have been given a washable coat of emerald-green paint in honor of this special day. Throughout Ireland, pubs and restaurants are preparing for an occasion that is traditionally celebrated with an abundance of food and drink.

These celebrations are by no means limited to Ireland. In New York City, eight kilometers of the white line that marks the center of Fifth Avenue has been painted green

and over 40,000 people are expected to take part in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. In total, some 40 million people around the world annually devote a day to the memory of Patrick, a fourth-century saint whose major miracle involved ridding Ireland of snakes. There is, however, a rather amusing side to all of this, for even though Patrick is beloved throughout Ireland, there is a good chance that he never did most of the things for which he is given credit.

If there was a St. Patrick at all, he was probably the Scotsman, Succat, who was born in 385, and who changed his name to Patricius only after his acceptance as a priest.

So holy was Patrick considered that nearly every place he ever visited was renamed after him. His birthplace is now Kilpatrick (the cell of Patrick); he lived in Dalpatrick (the district of Patrick) and visited Cragharding (the rock of Patrick).

When he was about 19, the saint-to-be set sail for England (need it be said that he sailed from the port now known as Portpatrick). He finally made his way to Ireland, and settled in the village now known as Holmpatrick, near Dublin. Wherever he went, Patrick's main mission in

life was not so much in having towns and churches named for him but in converting heathens to Christianity.

The fact that in 1982, Pope John XXIII issued a papal bull declaring that the great saint and his exploits were "more myths than realities" has not stopped Irishmen from accepting Patrick as their patron saint.

The local pubs participating in this celebration of Irish good spirits are M.A.S.H., Joyce, Beers, and Gordon Inn in Tel Aviv; Mike's Place, Champs and Glasnost in Jerusalem; Camel and Kalman in Haifa; La Pub and Scotchman in Netanya; and Big Ben in Tiberias.

Although potent, the home-

brewed whiskey made in nearly half of the homes of Ireland, will not be available here, there will be no shortage of Irish whiskey, Guinness stout, Irish coffee and Black Velvet, a drink made by gently pouring champagne and Guinness into the same glass.

For the uninitiated, stout is a dark, almost black, mildly sweet and rather potent beer that has the pronounced taste of malt and hops. Author Sean O'Faolain once observed that stout, the drink most often associated with the Emerald Isle, "is every bit as Irish as the Blarney Stone and damned well as Irish as any of the best Irishmen who ever walked the face of the earth."

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NEWS

in brief

Prisoners of Zion to be commended

Former Prisoners of Zion, and those who were killed due to their Zionist activities, will be honored in a ceremony at the Knesset today. Some 150 Prisoners of Zion from several countries will be presented with medals and certificates of appreciation at the ceremony.

Report: Deri plans to leave political life

Shas leader Aryeh Deri has been making plans to leave political life after the investigation into the Bar-On Affair is completed, but has received a letter from kabbalist Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie begging him to not do so, Channel 2 reported on Friday night.

In the letter, the contents of which were revealed on the channel's Friday Studio program, Kadourie writes he had heard of Deri's intentions to retire as head of Shas and pursue Torah study and business projects.

"You cannot do these things," the report quoted Kadourie as saying. "I call loudly on [you], Rabbi Deri, in fact, I command you, to retract this [decision]."

1 killed, 9 injured on roads

A man was killed and nine people were injured, one seriously, in road accidents over the weekend.

A 77-year-old man suffered heart failure while he was driving in Petah Tikva and his car hit three other cars. He was declared dead at Sharon Hospital. Another man was seriously injured in a collision in Kfar Sava on Friday night. Eight soldiers were lightly injured when the truck they were riding in skidded on a wet road and overturned Friday afternoon between Moaz and Carmel in the south Hebron hills.

Heavy snow falls on Mt. Hermon

Heavy snow fell on Mt. Hermon over the weekend, adding another layer of white to the slopes of the ski site, as mid-March rains and occasional thunderstorms swept other parts of the country. Staff at the ski site said another 20 cm. of snow had accumulated on the mountain, raising hopes that it will be able to remain open for skiing until Purim and perhaps even later.

The weather bureau reported that more snow is likely on the northern peak, with rain, accompanied by strong winds and some thunderstorms, in other parts of the country in the coming days. The cold, wet front is expected to last through Wednesday.

Winning Cards

The winning cards in Friday's Mifal Hapayis Chance draw were the seven of spades, 10 of hearts, jack of diamonds and king of clubs.

Conference addresses Diaspora-Israel relationship

By URIEL HELLMAN

Responding to the criticism heaped upon current relations between Israel and the Diaspora by his colleagues, executive director of the Peres Institute for Peace Uri Savir asserted last week that "secular American Jews have more connection with their tradition than the Jews of Israel."

Savir was speaking at the two-day 1997 Annual Conference on Public Administration, which brought together a variety of public officials to discuss issues of import to the Israeli community, among them the changing face of Israel-Diaspora relations.

Savir said that his Jewish identity developed from his relationship with Diaspora Jews.

"They may not be very interested in Israeli society," he said referring to his Diaspora counterparts, "but we have even less interest in what is going on

there. "We also have a problem of Jewish identity," he proclaimed, noting that despite his being a secular Jew, he believed that the key to rectifying the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora is "to involve ourselves, as Israelis, more in our Jewish identity... so we can be able to share a common connection with Diaspora Jewry."

Speaking before him, Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein stressed the importance of building a partnership between Israel and the Diaspora in light of the declining significance of Jewish tradition and nationalism among the world's Jews.

"We need to find a new model for working together," he said. "The problems that bother us are not necessarily the problems that bother the Diaspora. We have to find our common interests... academic, professional or Jewish."

New Yorkers lament Kiryat Yam mayor not suitable for post

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — New York, which only reluctantly conceded that Israel — not the Big Apple — may be the center of the Jewish world, had been put off by Jerusalem's delay in appointing a new consul-general and now seems offended by the candidate who was finally named.

"Is it too much to ask for Israeli representatives here who can speak fluent English and whose credentials extend further than a political friendship with David Levy?" Gary Rosenblatt, editor and publisher of *The New York Jewish Week*, wrote in Friday's edition.

Rosenblatt's column was the first significant, public reaction to the word that Shmuel Siso of Kiryat Yam would replace Colette Avital at the consulate in New York.

Siso, for New Yorkers, is the unknown mayor of a town that most could not locate on the map. He is also the choice of Foreign Minister Levy, who himself is a virtual mystery man in the American Jewish community.

As the media, cultural, financial, and Jewish capital of the US, New York reckoned itself to be a post that the Diaspora-

savvy Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would fill quickly with an envoy brimming with prestige, polish, and panache. New Yorkers were accustomed to the likes of Uri Savir, and even Avital, who has been feted in a months-long series of "farewell tributes" that overlook her often-acrimonious relationship with the anti-Oslo camp.

Rosenblatt's column, titled "Missing Colette Already," frets that the choice of the Moroccan-born Siso may indicate Netanyahu's interest in improving Diaspora relations is only lip service.

But he also alludes to a "hint of racism," reflecting an undercurrent here implying that Sephardim cannot represent Israel as well as Ashkenazim. Rosenblatt also suggests that Israel is being harmed by the "lack of a forceful Israeli voice in the US."

Elihu Ben-Elissar, the envoy to the US, "is not taken seriously by top Washington officials, in part because he is given to expressing his hawkish political views," Rosenblatt writes, adding there is "no one to counter the anti-Israel rhetoric of visiting Arab leaders like Yasser Arafat and Hosni Mubarak."

Uproar over Dotan's early release from prison

By ARIEN O'SULLIVAN

The Movement for Quality Government is demanding a reversal of last Thursday's decision to release Rami Dotan, a former senior IAF procurement officer who embezzled millions of dollars, after he has served only half his sentence, saying his release would demonstrate that not all are equal under the law.

A military committee decided to release the former brigadier-general on April 21, even though he will have served only half his 13-year sentence. The committee cited Dotan's poor health as the main factor in the decision.

Dotan was sentenced by a military court and demoted to private in 1991 after being convicted, along with two others, of bribery, fraud and theft.

Between 1984 and 1990, Dotan, then head of IAF procurement, skimmed off millions of dollars from contracts with

General Electric for jet engine improvement work in Israel. Dotan took some \$10 million in an affair that rocked the air force and defense industries.

The committee did put restrictions on Dotan as a condition of his release: Dotan must keep secret any classified information he may remember, and is forbidden to travel abroad.

The Movement for Quality Government has sent letters to IDF Judge Advocate-General

Brig-Gen. Uri Shoham and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, demanding that the decision be reversed.

"This is setting a grave precedent that not only abrogates the principle that all are equal in the eyes of the law, but also does little to deter white-collar crime," said Dorit Basman, spokesman for the movement. "If our letters are not given the proper consideration then we may turn to the High Court of Justice."

The movement for Quality Government has sent letters to IDF Judge Advocate-General

Hadash protests policies in Nazareth

By DAVID RUDGE

More than 1,500 people marched through Nazareth's main street yesterday in a demonstration organized by the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (Hadash) to protest the government's policies and to "save the peace process."

The demonstration followed the decision by Israeli-Arab leaders at the end of last week to call a general strike of the entire Arab sector on Land Day (March 30) to protest the government's "settlement policies."

The parade in Nazareth yesterday, which was licensed by police, passed peacefully and was followed by a rally at the city's Friendship House with the participation of Hadash MKs and local council heads. Towards the end, however, several bottles were thrown at police on duty in the area. There were no injuries. Police later detained a teenager on suspicion of being involved in the incident.

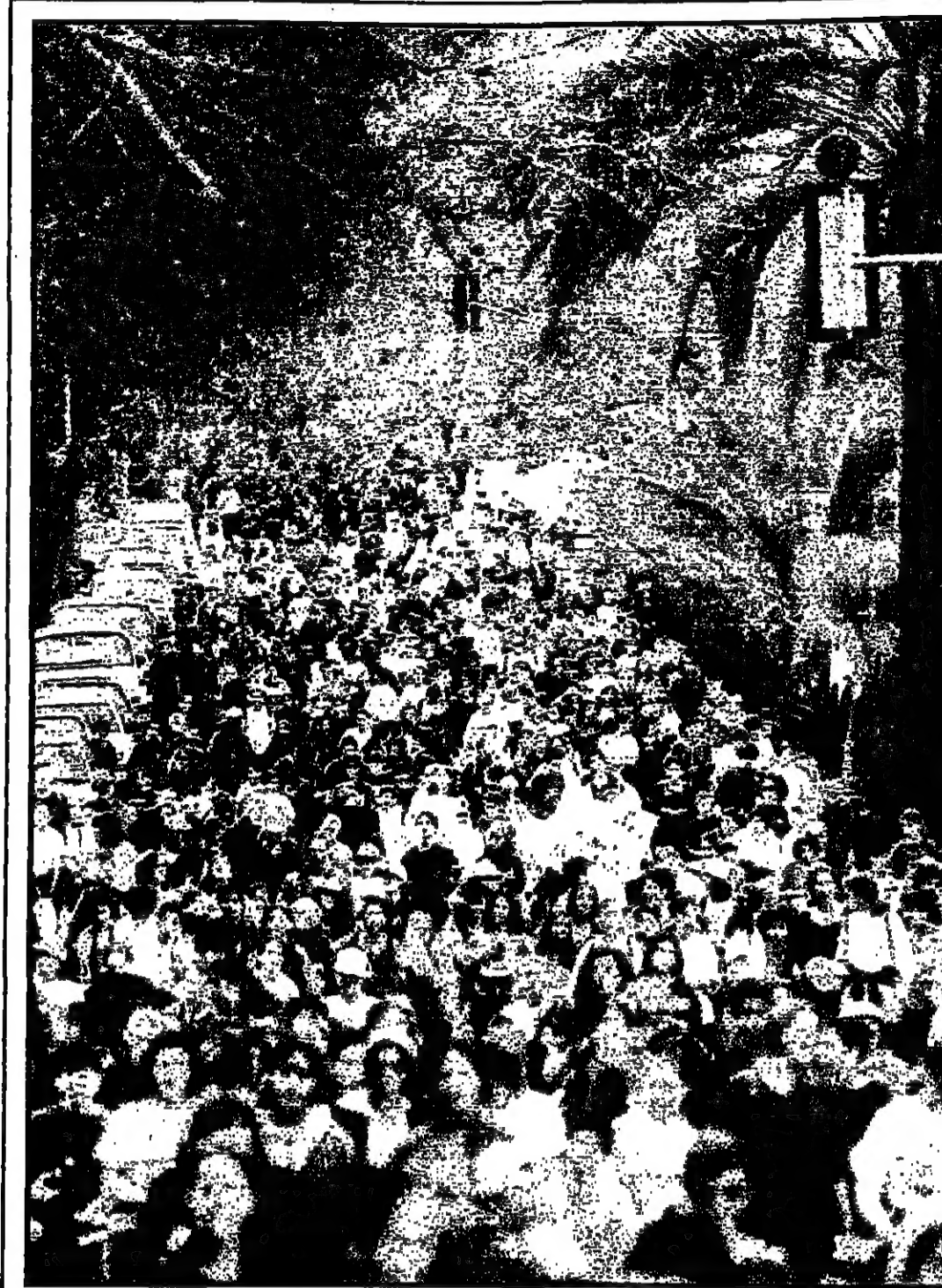
The decision to call a general strike on Land Day was taken at a meeting, in Rahat in the Negev last Thursday, of the Israeli-Arab leadership's monitoring committee, composed of the 53 Arab council heads, MKs and leading public figures.

It will be the first time in many years that Land Day will be marked by a general strike and rallies instead of picnics and a holiday-like atmosphere.

"The decision was taken in light of everything that has happened recently and as a form of protest against the government's policies," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads.

It also was decided at the meeting to hold rallies and ceremonies in the Negev and in Galilee on Land Day, which marks the 21st anniversary of the first demonstrations in 1976 to protest against the expropriation of Arab-owned land. The protests on that occasion erupted into violent clashes with the security forces in which six Arabs were killed and dozens of demonstrators and police were injured.

Suleiman, who is also head of Mash'had local council near Nazareth, said the decision to call a general strike was in protest over the government's decision to build on Har Homa, as well as "continuing excavations under al-Aksa and the expropriation of land in the Negev."



The last lap?

Runners in the Tel Aviv [half] Marathon clog the city's streets Friday. After the race Mayor Ronni Milo told organizers there would be no more marathons in Tel Aviv, due to the economic damage and nuisance it causes the city and its residents. The mayor offered to help the organizers move the marathon elsewhere. Story, Page 8.

(Israel Sun)

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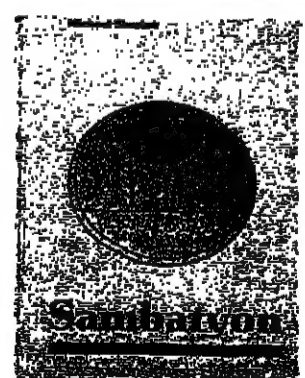
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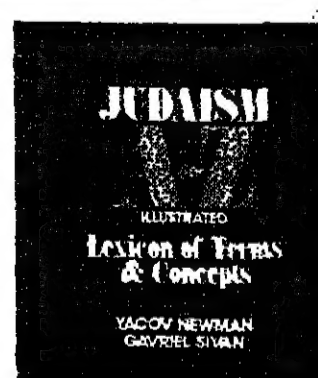
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